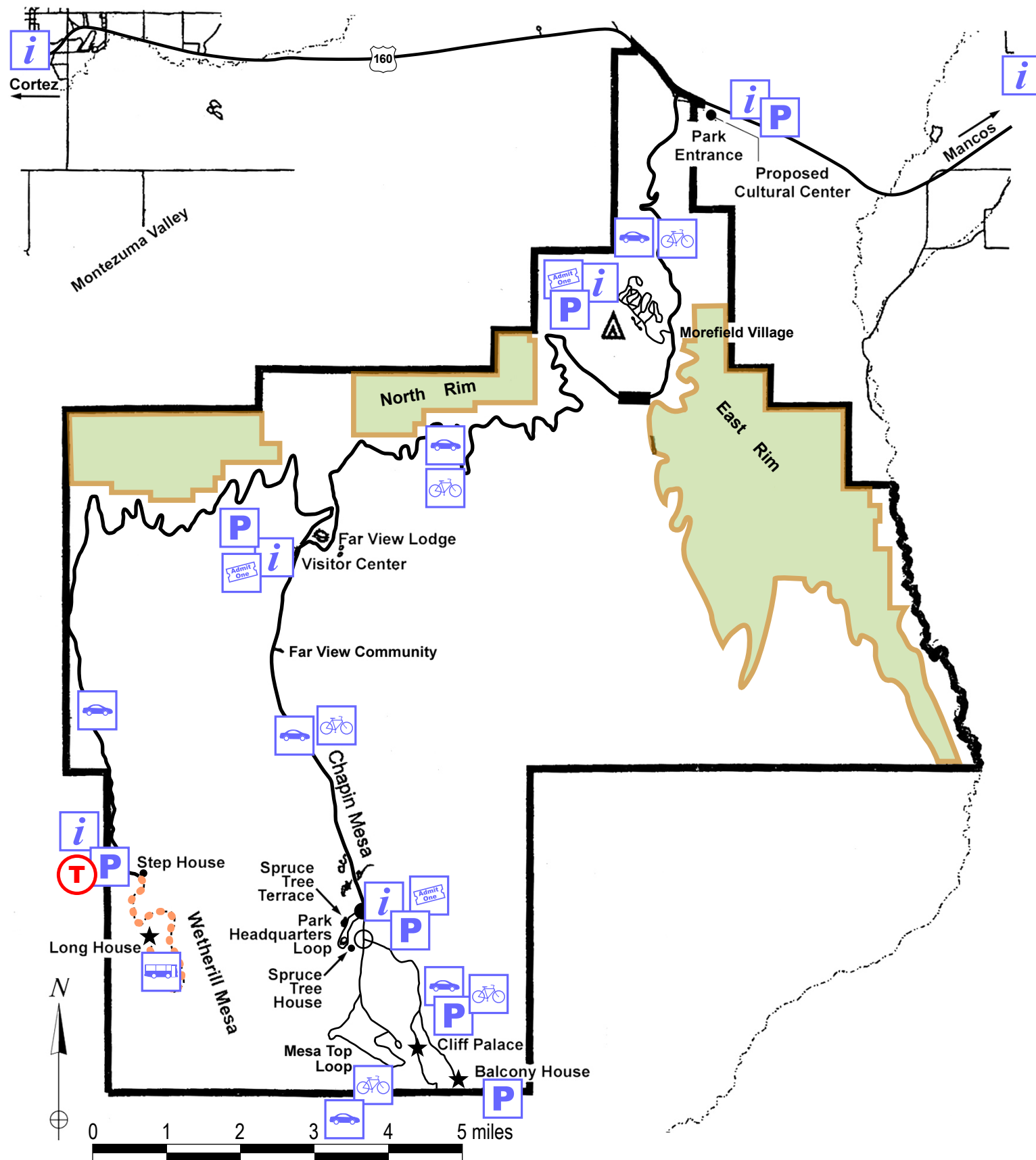


May 25, 2004



Preliminary No Action Alternative

No Action Summary

Preliminary No Action Alternative.

Provides baseline conditions as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Reflects current conditions including the park's infrastructure and only imminent or scheduled improvements.

Roadway

- Park Entrance Road, Chapin Mesa Road & Wetherill Mesa Road open to autos.
- Scheduled roadway improvements for Park Entrance Road (described under Assumptions Common to All Alternatives)
- Maintain existing turnouts provided on each road.
- No roadway improvements to Wetherill Mesa Road.
- Turning movement safety issue at southbound access to Far View Community.

Parking

- Maintain existing supplies: Park Entrance, Morefield Village, Far View VC, Chapin Mesa (HQ, Museum), Wetherill Mesa.

Transit

- Wetherill Mesa Loop Circulator Tram with existing capacity.

Tour Bus

- Concessioner-operated.
- Maintain access for other tour operators.
- Private group sizes remain same as today.

Trails

- Trails to overlooks available on Chapin Mesa and Wetherill Mesa.
- Morefield Village offers 3 formal trails, several social trails.
- Park HQ offers Petroglyph Point Trail and Spruce Canyon Trail.
- Wetherill Mesa offers Badger House Community Trail.

Bikes

- Allowed on park roads except Wetherill Mesa.
- Bikes not encouraged due to safety concerns.
- No designated bike lanes.
- No bike groups allowed.

Site Access/Overlooks

- Chapin Mesa: Spruce Tree House, Cliff Palace*, Balcony House*.
- Wetherill Mesa: Long House*, Step House, Badger House Community.
- *Ticketed site
- No new alcove or mesa top archaeological sites opened to public.
- Overlooks: Maintain existing locations on all roads with wayside exhibits.

Ticketing

- Seasonal on-site distribution: Morefield Village, Far View VC (summer), Chapin Mesa Museum (winter), new Cultural Center in 2010.
- Ticket group size: Same as today.

Orientation

- Information available at Park Entrance (new Cultural Center in 2010), Morefield Village, Far View VC, Chapin Mesa Museum, Cortez, Mancos, and on park website.
- Type of information currently available includes: Park access directions, seasonal schedules and special events, facilities, safety tips, and suggested visitor activities.

Interpretation Opportunities

- Ranger tour guides at ticketed sites.
- Brochures available for overall Mesa Verde NP, Mesa Top Loop, Far View Community and Petroglyph Point Trail, Knife Edge Trail, Spruce Tree House, Badger House Community, Park Point, and Nordenskiöld's Ruin #16.

Assumptions Common to All Alternatives

- Design year - 2023
- Visitor access to all facilities and areas remain same as today
- Development of new Cultural Center at Park Entrance:
 - Curatorial component - 2007
 - Visitor orientation/staging - 2010
 - Museum - 2010
- Far View Visitor Center functions with same mix of uses as today:
 - Visitor use: 60% of space; Office use: 40% of space
- Reconstruction of Far View Lodge - 2006:
 - Capacity remains same as today
 - Annual use may increase due to shoulder season or year-round use
- Morefield Campground capacity reduced by 24 sites in Navajo Loop due to construction of new employee housing

- Soda Point functions with same use as today:
 - Small-scale food service and craft sales
- Continue general maintenance of the roadway system including resurfacing, chip sealing, rock scaling, retaining walls and tunnel maintenance. Scheduled roadway improvements for Park Entrance Road include:
 - Point Lookout area retaining wall construction (6 locations between mp 2.2 and 3.0)
 - Horseshoe Bend realignment and surface reconstruction/stabilization (mp 6.2-6.4)
 - Line Change pullout removal, grade flattening and guardrail installation (mp 8.2)
 - Bravo (B-cut) Westerly alignment shift, new rockfall ditch and pullout/viewing area construction (mp 9.0-9.4)
- Park Entrance Road remains in all alternatives

Legend

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| = Roadway | = Ticket Distribution | = High Frequency Bus/Tram | = Bus/Tram Route |
| = Park Boundary | = Visitor Information | = Primary Visitor Parking Facility | |
| = Wilderness Area | = Autos Permitted | = Trail | |
| = Ticketed Sites | = Bikes Permitted | = Transit Terminus/Transfer Node | |